

HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT
ANTHROPOLOGY

AT

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Establishment of the Department

In a regular meeting on February 9, 1967, The Ohio State University Trustees approved a proposal by the Provost to establish a separate Department of Anthropology within the College of Commerce and Administration. The department was provided funds to begin operation in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1967.

Anthropology courses have been offered at The Ohio State University since the 1901-1902 academic year, when Assistant Professor James Hagerty (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania) of the Department of Economics and Sociology offered a course titled Primitive Society to twenty students. Early interest in "Ohio antiquities" on the part of the University Trustees had led in 1885 to an invitation to the State Archaeological Society to house its collections on the campus. An exhibit of Ohio archaeological materials was displayed at the 1886 New Orleans exhibition. In 1894, the archaeological collections finally were housed in the Geological Museum in Orton Hall. In 1894, Warren K. Moorehead moved his Ohio collection from the Smithsonian Institution to the University and became curator of the State collections in archaeology. In the same year, the University Trustees established a separate Department of Ohio Archaeology as a unit of the Orton Hall Museum. A display of archaeological material was prepared and shown at the 1894 Columbian Exposition. A program of "Ohio field research" began in 1894. The curator of archaeology later noted that between 1894 and 1896 more than eighty sites had been "excavated" and the contents stored in the Orton Hall Museum.

In 1905, Professor Hagerty offered, in addition to the course in Primitive Society, a course termed Problems of Sociology, which was

concerned with "a study of the customs, conduct, manners, habits of thought, etc., of the world's peoples." In the 1906-1907 year, courses titled The Indian ("A Study of Primitive Man"), The Negro ("A Study of Tropic Man") and History of the Family were added to the offerings in the department of Economics and Sociology. Professor Hagerty was assisted in teaching these courses by Assistant Professor McKenzie (M.A., University of Pennsylvania). In 1906, the Archaeological Museum was moved from Orton Hall to Page Hall with a display in the Page Hall lobby of the "Grand Prize" exhibit from the St. Louis World's Fair. In 1909, a course titled Primitive Man in Ohio was added to the offerings of the Department of Economics and Sociology. A course titled Tropical Races was added to the economics and sociology offerings in the 1911-1912 academic year. Courses titled Anthropology and Ethnology were added in the 1914-1915 academic year. In the 1918-1919 academic year, anthropology courses in the Department of Economics and Sociology were revised, with some titles and course descriptions being deleted or altered (e.g., Tropic Races, The Negro, etc.). Courses in Physical Anthropology and Social Anthropology were added to the anthropology offerings in the 1919-1920 academic year. A separate Department of Sociology was established in the 1920-1921 academic year. All anthropology courses were transferred to the new Department of Sociology and a new course numbering system was introduced. In 1926, the course titled Anthropology was changed to Introduction to Anthropology. Courses titled Cultural Anthropology and Seminar in Anthropology were added to the sociology department offerings in the 1927-1928 academic year. A course titled Primitive Social Organization was offered for the first time in the 1931-1932 year. Courses titled

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Primitive Religion were added to the anthropology offerings in the 1936-1937 academic year. In 1938, the course titled Primitive Man in Ohio was changed to Ohio Archaeology and new courses on the "Indians" of North, Central and South America were added to the anthropology offerings. In the 1939-1940 academic year, the course titles of anthropology offerings included:

- 501 - Introduction to Anthropology
- 502 - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- 503 - Primitive Races and Cultures
- 508 - Ohio Archaeology
- 601 - Primitive Social Organization
- 613 - Primitive Religion
- 630 - Indians of North America
- 631 - Indians of Central and South America
- 674 - Archaeological Training Expedition
- 820 - Seminar in Anthropology

In 1941 a course titled The Origin and Development of Man was added to replace the course titled Physical Anthropology which had been dropped for low enrollment in the 1925-1928 period. In 1945-1946, most of the anthropology courses were renumbered and retitled. New courses were also introduced. The course titled The Origin and Development of Man became Introduction to Physical Anthropology, Ohio Archaeology became North American Indian Prehistory and Primitive Social Organization became Social Organization of Preliterate Peoples. The new courses were titled Dynamics of American Culture and Acculturation and Culture Conflicts. In the 1949-1950 year new courses titled The Ethnology of Africa and

the Ethnology of Asia were added to the anthropology offerings of the Department of Sociology. A course titled Theory and Problems in Cultural Anthropology was added in the 1952-1953 year. The name of the Department of Sociology was changed by the University Trustees in the 1953-1954 academic year to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. In that year four anthropologists taught fifteen courses to a total enrollment of 523 students. In the same year there were eight full-time anthropology graduate students. Courses titled Culture Contact and Technological Change and Introduction to Anthropological Linguistics were added to the offerings of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in the 1954-1955 academic year. In the fifteen year period from 1940 through 1955, anthropology courses were taught by Professors Hagerty, Reckless, Harris, Lipkind, Robbins, Cuber, Bennett, Nissen, Hatt, Wolff, Berry, Harper, Adams, Seeman, Spuhler, Sletto, Johassen, Lantz, Bourguignon, Kirckhoff, Clarke, Estel, Ishino and Schnur.

Discussions concerning establishing a separate Department of Anthropology began in the 1954-1956 period. Since the annual growth rate of anthropology enrollments was low, a formal proposal to establish a separate Anthropology Department was delayed until the 1964-1965 academic year. Then, a series of formal and informal recommendations was made to the Provost and President by a combined department faculty study group, visiting senior anthropological colleagues and representatives of foundations. In the 1965-1966 year, the move began officially to separate the sociology and anthropology faculties.

The faculty of the combined Department of Sociology and Anthropology accepted a study report from a special departmental committee and on April 13, 1966, voted to approve the separation of the anthropology and sociology faculties, courses and facilities. The Curriculum

Committee of the College of Commerce and Administration approved this recommendation on April 18, 1966; the College Executive Committee on May 3, 1966; the College faculty on November 3, 1966; the Graduate Council on November 26, 1966; the Faculty Council on December 3, 1966; and the Council on Academic Affairs on December 14, 1966. The Provost formally endorsed the proposal and submitted it to the President with a recommendation for appointment of a chairman. The President concurred, after informing the Ohio Board of Regents and securing approval for the creation of a new graduate research department. The motion to establish the department and to appoint Thomas R. Williams as chairman was submitted to the University Board of Trustees. The trustees approved the President's proposals without dissent and authorized the new department to grant the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Doctorate of Philosophy degrees in anthropology.

The College Reorganization

The establishment of a separate Department of Anthropology occurred during a time when major organizational changes were occurring within the University. On January 1, 1968, halfway through the first year of operation, the department became a unit of the new College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and a member of the six-college grouping of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences. The other departments and schools associated with Anthropology in the new College of Social and Behavioral Sciences are Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Geography, Political Science, Speech, and Journalism. Although the transition to the new college administrative organization occurred at a time when the department barely had begun its operations, there were no substantive delays in plans or procedures. The goals of the reorganization of the

University and the plans and policies of the new college were endorsed by the anthropology faculty as fully consistent with department aims in undergraduate education and graduate education and research.